रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): (क) और (ख) भारतीय रेलें अपर्याप्त बजटीय सहायता के कारण वित्तीय तंगी का सामना कर रही हैं। नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में केन्द्र सरकार से सार्वजनिक सेवा दायिताओं के लिए बजटीय सहायता और एज-सहायता के रूप में 29,250 करोड़ रुपए की राशि की आवश्यकता है। भारतीय रेलों ने योजना आयोग से इस राशि की मांग की है।

(ग) रेल मंत्रालय भारतीय रेल वित्त निगम के जरिए 1993-94 और 1994-95 के वर्षों के दौरान 740.71 करोड़ रुपये और 206.50 करोड़ का बाजार ऋण जुटाने में सफल रहा था।

(घ) 1993-94 और 1994-95 के वर्षों के दौरान बाडों की कम मांग के कारण बाजार से लक्ष्य के अनुसार राशि नहीं जुटाई जा सकी। इस कारण क्रमशः 159.29 करोड़ रुपये और 843.50 करोड़ रुपये की कमी रह गई।

Setting of New Zonal Offices of Railways

1208. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what economic, administrative and other criteria have been fixed to set up new zonal offices of Railways;

(b) what are the places where new zonal offices were set up on these grounds during the last five years;

(c) whether any decision has been taken to set up new railway zones on these grounds in 1996-97; and

(d) if so, the details of the available required criteria to set up railway zone at Hazipur and the lack of same criteria prevailing in Bilaspur?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) New zones are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic patterns and other operation/ administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency.

(b) to (d) Keeping the various factors in view, the Government has decided to set up six new zones with headquarters to Bhubaneswar, Allahabad, Hajipur, Jaipur, Bangalore and Jabalpur. The issue of reorganisation had been examined earlier by the Railway Reform Committee and recently by an Advisors' Committee, neither of which had recommended location of a zonal headqauarters at Bilaspur.

The inaugural functions of all the zonal offices have been held as follows:—

Bhubaneswar on 8.8.96, Allahabad on 28.8.96.

Hajipur on 8.9.96, Jaipur on 17.10.96, Bangalore on 1.11.96 & Jabalpur on 8.12.96.

Gauge conversion of Bharuch-Dahej Railway line

1209. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations from the general public, entrepreneurs and representation of the people of Gujarat for according priority to the gauge conversion of Bharuch-Dahej Railway line in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to initiate gauge conversion of this line on priority basis; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Requests have been received for gauge conversion of this line from State Government and the Hon'ble MPs.

(c) Survey for gauge conversion of this line has been completed and the survey report included in the proposed 3rd line Virar-Ahmedabad project is under consideration in the Ministry.

(d) Does not arise.